

PRE-K -- KINDERGARTEN

- **Voluntary preschool for academically at-risk** - Make voluntary preschool available for children academically at risk
- **Full-day Kindergarten** - Support full-day Kindergarten for all children
- **Mandatory Kindergarten** - Make Kindergarten attendance mandatory
- **Kindergarten start date** - Provide Hoosier children with the same advantage children across the country receive by making the statewide age for Kindergarten entry comparable with other states
- **Transition from early learning to K-12** - Ensure that a system is in place in each community to facilitate a child's transition from early learning to K-12 system
- **Improve quality and coordination** – improve quality and coordination of early education and school readiness services including child care (home and center-based), preschool, family support services and programs
- **Ensure access** - Make sure every child has access to high quality programs that help prepare them for school (early education and school readiness services including child care (home and center-based), preschool, family support services and programs)

Overarching principles:

- *Build on successful programs already occurring.*
- *Involve parents in the planning and implementing of early learning and school readiness efforts. (Utilize nationally accepted standards for parent involvement.)*
- *Identify those special efforts and resources needed in low income and/or rural areas.*
- *Measure quality, availability and effectiveness of early education and school readiness efforts.*

Professional Development and Reading

- **Pediatricians and others who work with children** - Provide pediatricians and others who work with children information regarding cognitive (brain) development and the importance of reading to infants and children
- **Family literacy** - Identify and promote family and community literacy efforts
- **Parental engagement strategies for early care and preschool teachers** - Provide appropriate professional development and training to help early care and preschool teachers effectively work with and engage parents in early learning and school readiness efforts
- **Reading strategies for early care, preschool and primary teachers** - Provide appropriate professional development and training to help early care, preschool, and primary teachers master effective research-based reading strategies designed to make sure all children can read at grade-level by the end of third grade
- **Reading specialists** - Provide reading specialists at all primary grade levels to assist with reading instruction
- **Formative reading assessments** - Provide formative reading assessments throughout the primary grades
- **Immediate additional reading assistance** to students with identified needs and to students not expected to be reading at grade level

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Collaborative Partnerships and Parents

- **Employers and high quality child care and preschool** - Ask Indiana employers to invest in the state's future workforce by providing or partnering to provide high-quality child care options for employees and find incentives for employers to offer high-quality child care and preschool
- **Health screenings for all children**- Guarantee access to appropriate health screenings and high-quality developmental check-ups for all children birth to age 7. Advocate that pediatricians check every child with good screening instruments regularly throughout the preschool years so that problems can be identified and addressed early
- **Collaborative partnerships to support early learning** - Integrate early childhood services and expand collaborative partnerships with business, education, human services, mental health, and others to support early learning
- **Pediatricians and others who work with children** - Strengthen communication with pediatricians and others who work with children about the critical role of early learning and school readiness
- **Parents as first teachers** - Ensure that parents acquire the skills needed to be successful as their child's first teacher
 - Provide parents with information regarding cognitive (brain) development and the importance of reading to infants and children
 - Train parents to use parent-based screening tools to flag potential developmental problems and provide guidance to effective interventions
 - Provide parents with information on what they can do to help their children become good readers
 - Provide parents with information and training to support their child's learning and to strengthen school involvement skills
- **Address the over-subscription of African American children referred to special education** - Facilitate the efforts to address the over-subscription of African-American children to special education

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